



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

No. 163

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DEMINGS).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 21, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VAL BUTLER DEMINGS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 10:50 a.m.

### NICOLE GEE EULOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, every American knows the image of George Washington crossing the Delaware, the fallen rifleman at Gettysburg, and the marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima. Our history is punctuated with moments of individual heroism and virtue so profound and moving that they live forever in the memories of our countrymen and the proud story of our country.

To these iconic images, history has now added another: that of a young marine sergeant in full combat gear cradling a helpless infant in her arms amidst the unfolding chaos and peril in the besieged Kabul Airport and proclaiming: "I love my job."

The entire story of the war in Afghanistan is told in this picture: the sacrifices borne by young Americans who volunteered to protect their country from international terrorism, the heroism of those who serve their country even when their country failed them, the idealism of a generation that tried to bring enlightened modernity to an afflicted society, and, most of all, the stark contrast between good and evil, tyranny and freedom, barbarity and justice, and brutality and mercy.

Above all others, this is the image that describes it all. It is given power and immortality by the spirit of the young woman in this photo, Marine Sergeant Nicole Gee. Through the ages to come, this picture will speak of the sacrifice of blood and treasure of 20 years of struggling and of the vision, hope, liberty, justice, and humanity that summoned patriots like Nicole Gee to leave their homes and families and place themselves in harm's way on the other side of the world. As Shakespeare put it: "This story shall the good man teach his son." Historians looking back on this age will find its story summarized in this single picture and illustrated in the life, dreams, and ultimate sacrifice of Nicole Gee.

They will note that her life ended just days after this photo was taken at the age of just 23 years. They will remember that this angelic young lady was cut down with 12 of her brothers and sisters by incarnate, insensate evil. They will ponder where that young life might have led.

That is an important question, and the answer is known to all who knew her. She could have done anything she wanted. She was married to her high

school sweetheart, 4.1 GPA at Oakmont High School, "one pretty badass marine," as her sister put it. She could have done anything she wanted, and what she wanted most was to serve her country and to serve humanity.

Who else but a guardian angel amidst the chaos and violence of those last days in Kabul could look beyond all that and look into the eyes of an infant and proclaim: "I love my job"?

Speaking of the fallen heroes of past wars, James Michener asked the haunting question: Where do we get such men?

Well, here is the answer: We get such men and women from little towns across America like Roseville, California. They leave their family and friends in pursuit of the highest virtues of which human beings are capable, and they do it because their country asks them and because it is noble.

I don't know how to offer condolences to Nicole's family, to her husband, Jarod; her father, Rick; her sister, Misty; and her family and friends. The loss they bear is beyond my comprehension. I can only offer my awe and gratitude that humanity has within itself a small band of brothers and sisters like Nicole Gee; for without them, America, that "last best hope of mankind on this Earth," would not be possible.

A few steps from here in the rotunda is a fresco called The Apotheosis of Washington. It depicts General Washington in uniform ascending to the heavens flanked by Victory and Freedom and surrounded by the essence and fruits of a free nation. And in that depiction, Washington beckons.

From little towns like Roseville, California, decent young men and women with promising futures like Nicole Gee have answered. I don't know how their families can bear it, but I do know that we owe them. Before her father left the stage at a community memorial, he had one request. He pleaded:

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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"Never forget her please, never forget her."

We can never repay that debt except to honor her memory, keep her sacrifice always in mind, and to draw inspiration from her dedication and devotion to God and country—to all those who sacrificed everything "to proclaim liberty throughout all the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof."

#### MI CASA RESOURCE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CROW) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of Mi Casa Resource Center, now in their 45th year of service. Mi Casa was founded in 1976 by a group of eight Latina mothers who dreamed of a better world for themselves and their families. They wanted a safe space to develop skills for employment and education and expanded Mi Casa to include business development—delivering training for low-income entrepreneurs who just needed an opportunity.

Today, Mi Casa is a pillar for women, Latinos, or anyone looking for business or career support in the Denver metro area.

In the midst of the devastating pandemic, Mi Casa launched 45 new businesses, supported 45 Coloradans pivot to new careers, and reached more than 1,800 people overall. The transformational impact of Mi Casa on our community cannot be understated. I commend them for their remarkable work, and I congratulate Mi Casa Resource Center on their 45th anniversary.

#### COMMUNITY CHURCHES

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the efforts of several churches in my district that worked tirelessly to provide relief, support, and resources to their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. They hosted food banks for those in need, provided financial help to those struggling to make ends meet, and sought out opportunities to support the social, spiritual, and emotional needs of members.

Our community is better because of them, and I recognize the volunteers who sacrificed their time, energy, and own well-being to provide relief to those who needed a lifeline extended to them. In a time of fear, they built a network of hope.

I thank the staff, volunteers, and members of Mosaic Church, Friendship Church, Word in Action Church, City of God Church, Confluence Ministries, Orchard Church, Northern Hills Church, Colorado Multiethnic Coalition, Renewal Christian Center, and Hard Rock Church.

The impact of this outreach in our communities is profound. I commend all involved for their ongoing effort to ensure that no one gets left behind.

#### CELEBRATING DOUGLAS COUNTY

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Douglas County in

Colorado's Sixth District for being named the second healthiest county in the United States by the U.S. News & World Report.

With all due respect to the rest of my colleagues, there is no State like Colorado. We are home to 300 days of sunshine, the Rocky Mountains, world-class outdoor recreation, and exceptional small businesses.

In a year defined by a devastating public health crisis, our State added another accomplishment: community health.

With six of America's top 257 healthiest communities in Colorado, Douglas County ranks second. Home to countless walking trails, community-building events, and innovative infrastructure solutions, Douglas County is a great place to live.

So come out to see what it is all about. I invite my colleagues to visit Douglas County and the rest of my incredible district to see for themselves what makes the Centennial State one of a kind.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF VITA LANTZ BROWN

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the career of Vita Lantz Brown. In Arapahoe County, the saying goes: If you want something done, ask Vita. And, if Vita asks you to do something, you just can't say no.

A force for change in our community, Vita's faith drives her devotion to good government and diverse leadership. Vita is civic-minded and is committed to ensuring elected officials at every level are working to better the community.

She devotes her time and energy to many organizations, including Moms Demand Action, the Aurora NAACP, and countless others. As a servant leader, she also supports her community by providing free babysitting, tutoring for children, volunteering at a local school, feeding the homeless, and serving as deaconess at Macedonia Baptist Church.

Vita's life work is inspired by 2 Timothy 4:7:

I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness.

I thank Vita for her exemplary leadership, expertise, and commitment to our community.

#### 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AURORA NAACP

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the 30th anniversary of Aurora, Colorado's NAACP branch.

In 1991 Dr. Barbara Shannon-Bannister founded the Aurora branch as an important step in a long career devoted to civil rights. She built upon the legacy of her father's work in her hometown of New Orleans and later moved to Wyoming where she helped form the NAACP Wyoming chapter.

She recognized a need in Aurora. Though Aurora was one of Colorado's fastest growing cities, it lacked essential advocacy on civil rights issues.

Dr. Shannon-Bannister addressed this gap by creating the Aurora branch of the NAACP.

I extend my gratitude to Dr. Shannon-Bannister, current president Omar Montgomery, and all who have dedicated their time and expertise to the Aurora NAACP over the last 30 years. I thank them for their commitment to the residents of my district and for continually working toward this crucial mission.

#### SERGEANT GEE COMMEMORATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great remorse. Two weeks ago, U.S. Sergeant Nicole Gee, a marine from Roseville, California, was tragically killed in action during the August 26 bombing at the Kabul International Airport in Afghanistan.

As a physician of 30 years, I have written hundreds of letters to families whose loved ones have passed away. The letters that I wrote to Sergeant Gee's family were amongst the hardest I have ever written. She gave her life in service and sacrifice to our Nation alongside 12 other marines and beloved U.S. servicemembers, all of whom we remember fondly with admiration, appreciation, and a deep and humble respect.

Just a few days prior, Sergeant Gee commented upon her life as a marine, and she said: "I love my job."

Prior to her mission in Afghanistan, Sergeant Gee had been a maintenance technician assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 24 of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Her unit was based out of the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in my district.

I know I can speak for everyone in eastern North Carolina and the Camp Lejeune community in offering our most sincere condolences to Sergeant Gee's husband, fellow marine Jared Gee, as well as her family and loved ones during this extremely difficult time.

Sergeant Gee's bravery, empathy, patriotism, and unwavering commitment to others will never be forgotten. Her willingness to put herself in harm's way to protect her country and the cause of freedom is the most selfless act one can commit, and words are not enough to convey our district's sadness and our gratitude.

As a female marine, Sergeant Gee represented one of the fewer, one of the prouder. Women make up less than 10 percent of the Marine Corps, but these women carry the same flag, fight the same fight, and bleed the same red blood as their brothers on the battlefield.

Sergeant Nicole Gee's selflessness reminds us of the many sacrifices our women in uniform make for our country every day. We will never forget her